

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: Innes

Serial No.: 09/613,407

Filed: July 11, 2000

For: Database Synchronisation for
Mobile Computing Devices

36736

PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE
CUSTOMER NUMBER

§ Group Art Unit: 2145

§ Examiner: Mirza, Adnan M.

§ Attorney Docket No.: GB9-2000-0017-US1

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Respectfully submitted,

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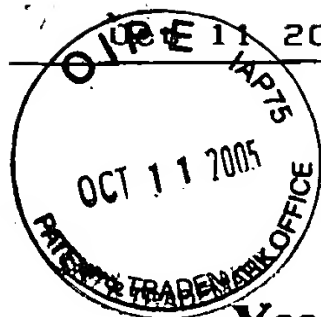
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Docket No. GB9-2000-0017-US1

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By:

Michale Morrow
Michale Morrow

APPEAL BRIEF (37 C.F.R. 41.37)

This brief is in furtherance of the Notice of Appeal, filed in this case on August 8, 2005.

The fees required under § 41.20(B)(2), and any required petition for extension of time for filing this brief and fees therefore, are dealt with in the accompanying TRANSMITTAL OF APPEAL BRIEF.

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REAL PARTY IN INTEREST

The real party in interest in this appeal is the following party: International Business Machines Corporation.

RELATED APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

With respect to other appeals or interferences that will directly affect, or be directly affected by, or have a bearing on the Board's decision in the pending appeal, there are no such appeals or interferences.

STATUS OF CLAIMS

A. TOTAL NUMBER OF CLAIMS IN APPLICATION

Claims in the application are: 1-23.

B. STATUS OF ALL THE CLAIMS IN APPLICATION

1. Claims canceled: NONE.
2. Claims withdrawn from consideration but not canceled: NONE.
3. Claims pending: 1-23.
4. Claims allowed: NONE.
5. Claims rejected: 1-23.
6. Claims objected to: NONE.

C. CLAIMS ON APPEAL

The claims on appeal are: 1-23.

STATUS OF AMENDMENTS

In the response filed July 1, 2005, amendments were made by Appellants to claims 1 and 13. Claim 1 is representative of the other amended independent claim 13 with regard to similarly recited subject matter. Claim 1 was amended as follows:

1. A method for performing server initiated database synchronisation between a mail server and a client on a mobile computing device, the method comprising the steps of:
 - providing the mail server and the client each with a user mailbox, wherein the mail server mailbox includes a remote device id for identifying the client;
 - receiving a message for said user at said mail server;
 - storing the message in said user mailbox on said mail server;
 - responsive to receipt of said message at the mail server, initiating a link between said mail server and said client using said remote device id, and wherein the step of initiating the link comprises:
 - creating a first trigger message,
 - transmitting said trigger message to a message server,
 - at the message server, transmitting a second trigger message to the client using a first protocol responsive to receipt of the first trigger message,
 - at the client, initiating a ~~mail box~~ client mailbox synchronise request to the mail server using a second protocol in response to the receipt of the second trigger message; and ~~wherein the method further comprises:~~
 - synchronising the client mailbox with the mail server mailbox using the second protocol such that said message is added to the client mailbox.

In the Advisory Action dated July 27, 2005, the Examiner states that the amendments made by Appellants require further search and consideration. Appellants respectfully submit that the amendments made by Appellants do not require further search and consideration. The amendments made to claims 1 and 13 were for clarification of the claimed subject matter. The amendment from "mail box" to "client mailbox" is supported by at least the step in which the amendment was made where the step starts with "at the client," thus, the mail box previously stated was a client mailbox. Furthermore, in the final step of the claim the client mailbox is synchronized, thus, the actual term "client mailbox" already exists within the claim itself. Additionally, Appellants respectfully submit the deletion of the phrase "wherein the method further comprises;" does not constitute a need for further search or consideration. Therefore, Appellants respectfully submit that the amendments to claims 1 and 13 do not require further search and consideration and, thus, should have been entered

into the record. However, due to the Examiner's refusal to enter the amendment, the claims stand as presented in the Response submitted July 1, 2005.

SUMMARY OF CLAIMED SUBJECT MATTER***Independent claims 1, 13, and 23:***

The present invention provides a method for performing server initiated database synchronisation between a mail server and a client on a mobile computing device. (Specification, page 5, lines 11-14) The present invention provides the mail server and the client each with a user mailbox, wherein the mail server mailbox includes a remote device id for identifying the client. (Specification, page 6, lines 13-15) The present invention receives a message for said user at said mail server. (Specification, page 5, line 16) The present invention stores the message in said user mailbox on said mail server. (Specification, page 5, lines 17-18) The present invention initiates a link between said mail server and said client using said remote device id responsive to receipt of said message at the mail server. (Specification, page 7, lines 4-6) Wherein the step of initiating the link, the present invention creates a first trigger message. (Specification, page 7, lines 6-7) The present invention transmits said trigger message to a message server. (Specification, page 5, lines 7-8) The present invention transmits a second trigger message to the client using a first protocol responsive to receipt of the first trigger message at the message server. (Specification, page 7, lines 11-13) The present invention initiates a client mailbox synchronise request to the mail server using a second protocol in response to the receipt of the second trigger message at the client. (Specification, page 5, lines 13-14) The present invention synchronising the client mailbox with the mail server mailbox using the second protocol such that said message is added to the client mailbox. (Specification, page 7, lines 14-17)

The apparatus recited in claim 13, as well as dependent claims 14-22, may be an apparatus comprised of mail server 10, mailbox 40, email 45, computer device 70 of Figure 1 and message server 120 of Figure 3a performing the steps described in the specification at page 11, line 26 to page 23, line 2, or equivalent. The apparatus recited in claim 23 may be an apparatus comprised of mail server 10, mailbox 40, email 45, computer device 70 of Figure 1 and message server 120 of Figure 3a performing the steps described in the specification at page 11, line 26 to page 23, line 2, or equivalent.

GROUND OF REJECTION TO BE REVIEWED ON APPEAL**A. GROUND OF REJECTION (Claims 1-7, 10-18, and 20-23)**

Claims 1-7, 10-18, and 20-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being allegedly anticipated by Mendez et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,961,590).

B. GROUND OF REJECTION (Claims 8, 9, and 19)

Claims 8, 9, and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Mendez et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,961,590) and Lefeber et al. (U.S. Publication No. 2002/0046299 A1).

ARGUMENT

A. 35 U.S.C. § 102, Alleged Anticipation, Claims 1-7, 10-18, and 20-23

A.1. Claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 10-14, 17, 18, and 20-23

The Final Office Action rejects claims 1-7, 10-18, and 20-23 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Mendez et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,961,590). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As to claims 1, 13, and 23, the Office Action dated November 4, 2004, states:

As per claims 1,13,23 Mendez disclosed a mail server for initiating database synchronization with a client on a mobile computing device, comprising: a mail server copy of a user mailbox, wherein a copy of said user mailbox also exists on the client; means for receiving a message for said user at the mail server; means for storing the message in said user mailbox on the mail server; means, responsive to receipt of said message at the mail server (col. 12, lines 29-39), for initiating a link between the mail server and the client; and means for transmitting synchronization updates to the client in order to synchronize the client copy of said mailbox with the mail server copy, such that message is added to the client copy of the mailbox and means for transmitting synchronization updates to the client in order to synchronize the client copy of said mailbox with the mail server copy (col. 12, lines 1-8), such that said message is added to the client copy of the mailbox, responsive to receipt of said message at the mail server, for initiating a link between the mail server and the client (col. 12, lines 20-28). Wherein the step of initiating the link comprises: creating a first trigger messaging to a message server, at the message server, transmitting a second trigger message to the client using a first protocol responsive to receipt of the first trigger message, at the client initiating a mail box synchronize request to the mail server using a second protocol in response to the receipt of the second trigger message; and wherein the method further comprises synchronizing the client copy of said mailbox with the mail server copy using the second protocol (col. 15 lines 12-53).

Claim 1 is representative of the other rejected independent claims 13 and 23 with regard to similarly recited subject matter. Claim 1 reads as follows:

1. A method for performing server initiated database synchronisation between a mail server and a client on a mobile computing device, the method comprising the steps of:
providing the mail server and the client each with a user mailbox, wherein the mail server mailbox includes a remote device id for identifying the client;

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receiving a message for said user at said mail server;
storing the message in said user mailbox on said mail server;
responsive to receipt of said message at the mail server, initiating a link
between said mail server and said client using said remote device id, and wherein
the step of initiating the link comprises:
creating a first trigger message,
transmitting said trigger message to a message server,
at the message server, transmitting a second trigger message to the client
using a first protocol responsive to receipt of the first trigger message,
at the client, initiating a mail box synchronise request to the mail server
using a second protocol in response to the receipt of the second trigger message;
and wherein the method further comprises:
synchronising the client mailbox with the mail server mailbox using the
second protocol such that said message is added to the client mailbox.

A prior art reference anticipates the claimed invention under 35 U.S.C. § 102 only if every element of a claimed invention is identically shown in that single reference, arranged as they are in the claims. *In re bond*, 910 F.2d 831, 832, 15 U.S.P.Q.2d 1566, 1567 (Fed Cir. 1990). All limitations of the claimed invention must be considered when determining patentability. *In re Lowry*, 32 F.3d 1579, 1582, 21 U.S.P.Q.2d 1031, 1034 (Fed Cir. 1994). Anticipation focuses on whether a claim reads on the product or process a prior art reference discloses, not on what the reference broadly teaches. *Kalman v. Kimberly-Clark Corp.*, 713 F.2d 760, 218 U.S.P.Q. 781 (Fed. Cir. 1983). Appellant respectfully submits that Mendez does not teach every element of the claimed invention arranged as they are in the claims. Specifically, Mendez does not teach responsive to receipt of said message at the mail server, initiating a link between said mail server and said client using said remote device id, and wherein the step of initiating the link comprises: creating a first trigger message, transmitting said trigger message to a message server, at the message server, transmitting a second trigger message to the client using a first protocol responsive to receipt of the first trigger message, at the client, initiating a mail box synchronise request to the mail server using a second protocol in response to the receipt of the second trigger message; and synchronising the client mailbox with the mail server mailbox using the second protocol such that said message is added to the client mailbox.

Mendez is directed to a system that includes an e-mail engine which uses a proper protocol to retrieve an e-mail from a first mail store and to store the e-mail in one or more folder structures. Upon request, the first mail store may send configuration data indicating the proper

protocol to the e-mail engine, which can then properly configure itself. An e-mail synchronization module uses a predetermined criterion to determine whether the e-mail was previously sent and whether to synchronize the e-mail with a second mail store. The e-mail synchronization module may also synchronize the e-mail of specific folder structures. The second mail store may be located on a global server, which upon proper identification and authentication provides roaming users with access to its contents. A communications module establishes a communications channel through any firewalls with the second mail store. A web engine sends the e-mail via the communications channel to the second mail store.

Mendez does not teach responsive to receipt of said message at the mail server, initiating a link between said mail server and said client using said remote device id. The Final Office Action alleges that this feature is taught at column 12, lines 1-39, which read as follows:

The LAN 810 includes a network server 845 coupling the LAN firewall 870 via a system bus 855 to a client 840 and to a mail server 850. The mail server 850 receives and stores in one or more folder structures client electronic mail 875 (e-mails) from the computer network 820 and addressed to the client 840. The client 840 includes an e-mail synchronization system 860 for downloading client e-mails 875 from the mail server 850 and storing them locally in one or more folder structures as "downloaded e-mails 865." To communicate therebetween, the mail server 850 and the e-mail engine 965 must both use the same transmission protocol such as the third version of the Post Office Protocol (POP3), the Vendor-Independent Messaging (VIM) protocol developed by the Lotus Development Corporation, or the Messaging Application Program Interface (MAPI) protocol developed by the Microsoft Corporation. Each e-mail in the LAN 810 is stored in a predetermined format, referred to as Format A, which is determined by the e-mail engine 965 (FIG. 9) on the LAN 810 that downloaded it.

It will be appreciated that, after being downloaded, the client e-mails 875 corresponding to the downloaded e-mails 865 may be deleted from the mail server 850. The e-mail synchronization system 860 further synchronizes the downloaded e-mails 865, the client e-mails 875 or possibly only the e-mails of a specific folder structure (e.g., a user's unanswered mail folder or joke folder) with the global server 835. The e-mail synchronization system 860 is described in greater detail below with reference to FIG. 9.

The ISP mail server 894 and the client 897 operate in a similar manner to the mail server 850 and the client 840. Generally, the ISP mail server 894 receives e-mails from the computer network 820 which are addressed to the client 897, and stores them locally in one or more folder structures as "client e-mails 896." The e-mail synchronization system 898 of the client 897 uses an e-mail engine 965 (FIG. 9) to download client e-mails 896 and store them locally in one or more folder structures as "downloaded e-mails 899." The e-mail engine 965 of the client 897 stores the e-mails in Format B, which may be different than Format A.

The e-mail synchronization system 898 then synchronizes the client e-mails 896, the downloaded e-mails 899 or possibly the e-mails of specific folder structures with the global server 830.

In this section, Mendez describes a configuration of a computer network, which is comprised of a Local Area Network coupled via a communications channel to a computer network such as the Internet. In this configuration the client uses an email synchronization system that has an e-mail engine to download client e-mails and store them locally in one or more folder structures. Nowhere in this section, or any other section of Mendez is a configuration described where a link between the mail server and the client is initiated using a remote device id in response to receipt of a message at the mail server.

In response to Appellant's arguments the Final Office dated May 4, 2005, states:

As to applicant's argument Mendez disclosed and also recited by the applicant " The mail server 850 receives and stores in one or more folder structures client electronic mail 875 (e-mails) from the computer network 820 and addressed to the client 840 (col. 12, lines 3-7). One ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention interpreted the function of receiving, sending and saving emails would resulted in establishing communication link between the client and the receiver.

Appellant respectfully submits that, while Mendez may establish a communication link, the communication link is not established in response to receipt of a message at the mail server, as recited in the presently claimed invention. As discussed previously, Mendez teaches establishing a link in response to a client initiating the communication link. The claim does not merely recite initiating a link, but recites initiating a link in response to the receipt of a message at the mail server.

In response to Appellant's argument, the Advisory Action dated July 27, 2005, states:

Applicant argued that prior art did not disclose "responsive to receipt of said message at the mail server, initiating a link between said mail server and said client using said remote device id". As to applicant's arguments Mendez disclosed and also recited by the applicant " The mail server 850 receives and stores in one or more folder structures client electronic mail 875 (e-mails) from the computer network 820 and addressed to the client 840 (col. 12, lines 3-7). One of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention interpreted the function of receiving, sending and saving emails would resulted in establishing communication link between the client and the receiver.

Appellant respectfully submits that the Examiner's comments do not address the arguments Appellant has presented. The presently claimed invention initiates a link between said mail server and said client using said remote device id in response to receipt of said message at the mail server. As stated by the Examiner, Mendez receives, sends and saves emails. However, Mendez does not perform any function in response to receipt of said message at the mail server.

Moreover, Mendez actually teaches away from this type of configuration by teaching a synchronization-start module within the client system that determines when to initiate e-mail synchronization. Mendez specifically teaches that communication with the synchronization agent of the global server preferably initiates from within the LAN, because a security system such as the typical firewall prevents inbound communications and allows out-bound communications. The synch-start module of the client may instruct the communications module to establish the communications link with the synchronization agent of the global server. See column 14, line 61 to column 15, line 11. The client initiation of synchronization-start module may initiate e-mail synchronization upon user request, at a particular time of day, after a predetermined time period passes, after a user action such as user log-off or upon like criteria. Nowhere does Mendez teach initiating a link between the mail server and the client using a remote device id in response to receipt of a message at the mail server.

Therefore, Mendez also does not teach initiating a link by creating a first trigger message, transmitting the trigger message to a message server, at the message server, transmitting a second trigger message to the client using a first protocol responsive to receipt of the first trigger message, at the client, initiating a mail box synchronise request to the mail server using a second protocol in response to the receipt of the second trigger message. While Mendez may initiate synchronization at the client, it is not in response to a message sent from the mail server.

Thus, Mendez does not teach each and every feature of independent claims 1, 13, and 23 as is required under 35 U.S.C. § 102. At least by virtue of their dependency on independent claims 1 and 13, the specific features of dependent claims 2-7, 10-12, 14-18, and 20-22 are not taught by Mendez. Accordingly, Appellant respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 1-7, 10-18, and 20-23 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) not be sustained.

Furthermore, Mendez does not teach, suggest or give any incentive to make the needed changes to reach the presently claimed invention. Absent the Examiner pointing out some teaching or incentive to implement Mendez such that a link between the mail server and the client is initiated using a remote device id in response to receipt of a message at the mail server, one of ordinary skill in the art would not be led to modify Mendez to reach the present invention when the reference is examined as a whole. Absent some teaching, suggestion or incentive to modify Mendez in this manner, the presently claimed invention can be reached only through an improper use of hindsight using the Appellant's disclosure as a template to make the necessary changes to reach the claimed invention.

A.2. Claims 3 and 15

With regard to claims 3 and 15, Mendez does not teach wherein the step of initiating a link to said client comprises executing an agent, wherein the agent initiates a call to the client using said remote device id. The Final Office Action alleges that this feature is taught at column 14, lines 23-39, which reads as follows:

The communications module 1005 includes routines for compressing data and routines for establishing a communications link via the communications interface 925 (FIG. 9) with the synchronization agent 885 (FIG. 8). The communications module 1005 may further include routines for applying Secure Socket Layer (SSL) technology and user identification and authentication techniques (i.e., digital certificates) to establish a secure communication channel through the global firewall 880.

In this section, Mendez describes a communication module, which is part of a base system that also includes a user interface module, locator modules, a synchronization-start module and an e-mail synchronization module. Thus the described communication module is part of the client and Mendez is actually teaching the client initiating a communications link with the server.

In view of the above, Mendez fails to teach the specific features recited in dependent claims 3 and 15. Accordingly, Appellants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 3 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) not be sustained.

A.3. Claims 4, 7, and 16

With regard to claims 4, 7, and 16, Mendez does not teach wherein the agent initiates the call to the client by: creating the first trigger message, said first trigger message comprising the remote device id; transmitting said first trigger message to the message server; and responsive to receipt of said first trigger message at the message server, initiating said link between the mail server and the client in order to perform said synchronization, and wherein the step of initiating a link to the client further comprises: receiving the first trigger message at said message server; looking up the remote device id contained within said first trigger message in the message server's address book; mapping said remote device id to the corresponding contact details; and using said details to transmit the second trigger message to the client. As discussed above, Mendez teaches initiating a communications link and a synchronization call to the server from the client.

In view of the above, Mendez fails to teach the specific features recited in dependent claims 4, 7, and 16. Accordingly, Appellant respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 4, 7, and 16 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) not be sustained.

B. 35 U.S.C. § 103. Alleged Obviousness. Claims 8, 9, and 19

The Final Office Action rejects claims 8, 9, and 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mendez et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,961,590) and Lefebvre et al. (U.S. Publication No. 2002/0046299 A1). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 8, 9, and 19 are dependent on independent claims 1 and 13 and, thus, these claims distinguish over Mendez for at least the reasons noted above with regards to claims 1 and 13. Moreover, Lefebvre does not provide for the deficiencies of Mendez and, thus, any alleged combination of Mendez and Lefebvre would not be sufficient to reject independent claims 1 and 13 or claims 8, 9, and 19 by virtue of their dependency. That is, Lefebvre does not teach initiating a link between the mail server and the client using a remote device id in response to receipt of a message at the mail server.

In response to Appellant's arguments the Final Office dated May 4, 2005, states:

As to applicant's argument Lefebber disclosed "wherein the device hangs up after a specified number of ring and delays or after sufficient time for the server to capture caller ID information would be received by a server that the alert was received and/or that the user took action and signaling server could ease efforts to notify the user (Page. 6, Column. 0051)". One ordinary skill in the art at time of the invention interpreted "caller ID information" as "Remote device ID" and "receiving the alert" also as interpreted as "receiving the message".

Appellant respectfully submits that, while Lefebber may use caller ID information, Lefebber does not teach or suggest initiating a link between the mail server and the client using a remote device id in response to receipt of a message at the mail server. Thus, the combination of Mendez teaching the establishment of a link in response to a client initiating the communication link and Lefebber teaching a caller ID, still does not teach or suggest the presently claimed invention of initiating a link between the mail server and the client using a remote device id in response to receipt of a message at the mail server.

Moreover, the Final Office Action may not use the claimed invention as an "instruction manual" or "template" to piece together the teachings of the prior art so that the invention is rendered obvious. In re Fritch, 972 F.2d 1260, 23 U.S.P.Q.2d 1780 (Fed. Cir. 1992). Such reliance is an impermissible use of hindsight with the benefit of Appellant's disclosure. Id. Therefore, absent some teaching, suggestion, or incentive in the prior art, Mendez and Lefebber cannot be properly combined to form the claimed invention. As a result, absent any teaching, suggestion, or incentive from the prior art to make the proposed combination, the presently claimed invention can be reached only through an impermissible use of hindsight with the benefit of Appellant's disclosure as a model for the needed changes.

In view of the above, Mendez and Lefebber, taken either alone or in combination, fail to teach or suggest the specific features recited in independent claims 1 and 13, from which claims 8, 9, and 19 depend. Accordingly, Appellants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 8, 9, and 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) not be sustained.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above, Appellants respectfully submit that claims 1-23 are allowable over the cited prior art and that the application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Appellants respectfully request the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences to not sustain the rejections set forth in the Final Office Action.



Francis Lammes

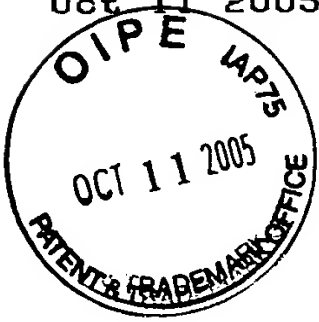
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CLAIMS APPENDIX

The text of the claims involved in the appeal are:

1. A method for performing server initiated database synchronisation between a mail server and a client on a mobile computing device, the method comprising the steps of:
 - providing the mail server and the client each with a user mailbox, wherein the mail server mailbox includes a remote device id for identifying the client;
 - receiving a message for said user at said mail server;
 - storing the message in said user mailbox on said mail server;
 - responsive to receipt of said message at the mail server, initiating a link between said mail server and said client using said remote device id, and wherein the step of initiating the link comprises:
 - creating a first trigger message,
 - transmitting said trigger message to a message server,
 - at the message server, transmitting a second trigger message to the client using a first protocol responsive to receipt of the first trigger message,
 - at the client, initiating a mail box synchronise request to the mail server using a second protocol in response to the receipt of the second trigger message; and wherein the method further comprises:
 - synchronising the client mailbox with the mail server mailbox using the second protocol such that said message is added to the client mailbox.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the mail server mailbox includes the remote device id for identifying the client.
3. The method of claim 2, wherein the step of initiating a link to said client comprises executing an agent, wherein the agent initiates a call to the client using said remote device id.
4. The method of claim 3, wherein the agent initiates the call to the client by:
creating the first trigger message, said first trigger message comprising the remote device id;
transmitting said first trigger message to the message server; and
responsive to receipt of said first trigger message at the message server, initiating said link between the mail server and the client in order to perform said synchronisation.
5. The method of claim 4, wherein said message server includes an address book, in which the remote device id of the client and contact details are stored.
6. The method of claim 5, wherein the step of initiating a link to the client further comprises:
receiving the first trigger message at said message server;
looking up the remote device id contained within said first trigger message in the message server's address book;
mapping said remote device id to the corresponding contact details; and
using said details to transmit the second trigger message to the client.

7. The method of claim 6 wherein a first link is established between the client and the message server to allow receipt of said second trigger message by the client, said method further comprising the steps of:

dropping said first link after receipt of said second trigger message at the client;

initiating a second link from the client to the message server; and

transmitting a synchronisation request over said second link from the message server to the client using the second protocol, wherein said synchronisation is performed in response to receipt of said request at the client.

8. The method of claim 6, wherein the second trigger message is an SMS text message.

9. The method of claim 4, wherein the mail server and the message server are physically the same machine.

10. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of allowing a user to disable server initiated database synchronisation with the client.

11. The method of claim 1, comprising the steps of:

logging when synchronisation was last performed; and

responsive to receipt of a new message for the user at the mail server, waiting a predetermined amount of time after said synchronisation was last performed before performing synchronisation again.

12. The method of claim 11, further comprising the step of enabling a user to alter said predetermined amount of time.

13. A mail server for initiating database synchronisation with a client on a mobile computing device, comprising:

a mail server copy of a user mailbox, wherein a copy of said user mailbox also exists on the client;

means for receiving a message for said user at the mail server;

means for storing the message in said user mailbox on the mail server;

means, responsive to receipt of said message at the mail server, for initiating a link between the mail server and the client; and

means for transmitting synchronisation updates to the client in order to synchronise the client copy of said mailbox with the mail server copy, such that said message is added to the client copy of the mailbox, wherein the means for initiating the link comprises:

creating a first trigger message,

transmitting said trigger message to a message server,

at the message server, transmitting a second trigger message to the client using a first protocol responsive to receipt of the first trigger message,

at the client, initiating a client mailbox synchronise request to the mail server using a second protocol in response to the receipt of the second trigger message; and

synchronising the client mailbox with the mail server mailbox using the second protocol such that said message is added to the client mailbox.

14. The mail server of claim 13, wherein the mail server copy of the mailbox includes a remote device id for identifying the client.

15. The mail server of claim 14, wherein the means for initiating a link to said client comprises an agent which initiates a call to the client using said remote device id.

16. The mail server of claim 15, wherein the mail server further includes a message server, and wherein the agent initiates the call to the client by creating the first trigger message, said first trigger message including the remote device id, and by transmitting said first trigger message to the message server, said message server including means responsive to receipt of said first trigger message for initiating said link between the mail server and the client in order to perform said synchronisation.

17. The mail server of claim 16, wherein said message server includes an address book, in which the remote device id of the client and contact details are stored.

18. The mail server of claim 17, wherein the message server further comprises:
means for receiving the first trigger message;
means for looking up the remote device id contained within said first trigger message in the message server's address book;
means for mapping said remote device id to the corresponding contact details; and
means for using said details to transmit the second trigger message to the client.

19. The mail server of claim 18, wherein the second trigger message is an SMS text message.

20. The mail server of claim 13, further comprising means for allowing a user to disable server initiated database synchronisation with the client.

21. The mail server of claim 13, further comprising:

a log of when synchronisation was last performed; and

means responsive to receipt of a new message for the user at the mail server, for waiting a predetermined amount of time after synchronisation was last performed before performing synchronisation again.

22. The mail server of claim 21, further comprising means for enabling a user to alter said predetermined amount of time.

23. A mobile computing device including a copy of a user mailbox, wherein said copy corresponds to a user mailbox on a mail server, said server performing server initiated database synchronisation upon receipt of a message for the user at said mail server, said device comprising:

means for detecting a call from the mail server, the call being transmitted using a simple first protocol;

means, responsive to detecting said call, for initiating a link with the mail server using a second protocol; and

means for receiving synchronisation updates from the mail server using the second protocol in order to synchronise the client copy of said mailbox with the mail server copy such that said message is added to the client copy of the mailbox.

EVIDENCE APPENDIX

There is no evidence to be presented.

RELATED PROCEEDINGS APPENDIX

There are no related proceedings.